

March 6, 2017

Via email: gaetestimony@cga.ct.gov

Re: In support of Early Voting HJ5, HJ13, HJ35, and HJ95

Dear Senator McLachlan, Senator Winfield, and members of the Government Administration and Elections:

My name is Theda Lambert, I'm a resident of New Fairfield and a member of Action Together Connecticut. I am in support of a Constitutional Amendment which will allow Connecticut to be in step with a majority of States that allow early voting.

First I'd like to register my disappointment that my representative, Senator McLachlan has chosen to push the false narrative that early voting potentially increases voter fraud and has substantial costs. Neither of these points are valid nor backed up by any evidence. Voting against these bills shows an inherent distrust of the electorate, which is simply un-American.

Connecticut is 1 of 7 States that does not allow early voting, no doubt because in order to do so, our State requires a Constitutional amendment. Our citizens need to be on equal footing with other States, otherwise our citizens are disenfranchised due to the unequal time periods allocated for voting. A decentralized voting system works well for our Democracy, when different procedures work well for its citizens. In this case, the arbitrary lines of State lines determines if you have a greater, or lessor time period to vote. When the window to vote can be as wide as 46 days and 12 hours (MN) verses Connecticut's 13 hours, it's easy to see that our archaic voting system disadvantages Connecticut citizens.

In the last Presidential election, I was caring for my father-in-law who lived in N.J., and who at the time, was in hospital and not expected to live. In NJ, he was able to vote by mail, but in CT, my husband and I could not absentee vote, because we could not affirm that we would be out of state on November 8. As things turned out, we were able to both vote in person, but the angst of choosing between voting and being with our loved one was an unnecessary choice if Connecticut had early voting.

Expanding voting opportunities should not be a partisan issue, yet when any measure proves more electorate involvement, Republicans are quick to disavow. It would be refreshing to see these bills have bi partisan support.

Thank you.

Regards,

Theda Lambert

147 st rt 39  
New Fairfield, CT  
203-788-9443  
[thedalambert@gmail.com](mailto:thedalambert@gmail.com)